FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq captured the Iranian town of Mehran and four towns and villages in a 17 May offensive in the central sector and inflicted "very large" casualties on the Iranians, the Iraqi command announced in communiques broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. A communique cited by the radio also claimed that six mountain peaks overlooking Mehran basin were liberated while an INA report disclosed that two more peaks were captured 18 May, according to a "high-ranking" Iraqi military commander. The II Army Corps commander asserted to INA 18 May that Iraq seized 250 square km of Iranian territory in the offensive and wiped out the Iranian forces there, pursuing the remainder to the "strategic" Khani Dam. On the other hand, IRNA reported 19 May on an Iraqi "retreat" from the southern part of Mehran 18 May during a "heavy" battle in which the Iraqis sustained many casualties and lost 45 tanks and personnel carriers. The report noted that fighting was continuing in Mehran, which the report admitted had been "taken" by Iraq 17 May. The agency also cited a 19 May military statement on two Iranian air raids on Iraqi positions in that area. Earlier, on 18 May, an Iranian military spokesman cited by the agency claimed that Iraqi forces had been pushed back 5 km, although admitting that Iraq controlled heights adjacent to Mehran. IRNA reported 17 May that an Iraqi counterattack was repulsed in that region, with some 300 Iraqis killed or wounded and at least 35 Iraqi tanks and vehicles destroyed.

An Iraqi communique announcing Iraq's capture of Mehran insisted that Iraq does not "covet" Iranian territory, and would therefore withdraw from Mehran if Iran met one of two conditions: acceptance of the principle of "complete, comprehensive, and unconditional withdrawal" to the international borders as part of a comprehensive peace, or Iran's withdrawal from the Al-Faw triangle.

In more action in the Haj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that three Iraqi planes were shot down 17-18 May while 28 Iraqi helicopters were destroyed from 15-18 May. The radio also disclosed that Iranian fighters bombed Iraqi positions near Rawanduz in northeastern Iraq 18 May, inflicting "heavy" casualties. In other air action, an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iraqi planes raided bridges in West Azarbayjan Province and northwest of Dehloran 18 May, while an Iranian communique cited by IRNA the same day reported that an Iraqi plane involved in the attacks was downed.

One hundred Iraqis were killed and a "large number" were wounded during a 15 May Iranian operation in the Panjwin region, southeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, according to IRNA.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's opposition to terrorism during his interview with U.S. journalists, which was carried by Damascus television 18 May. Referring to the recent attempt to blow up an El Al airliner, he maintained that Syria refuses to undertake acts against civil aviation, considering such actions "cowardly and inhuman." Asked about alleged Syrian support for Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, Al-Asad said he does not personally know Abu Nidal, who "does not exist in Syria" and whose only facility in Syria is a "cultural and political" office manned by two representatives.

On relations with the United States, Al-Asad accused President Reagan of "throwing verbal bombs" and "waging a war" against Syria. Current U.S. leaders "are talking too much" and should weigh their words more carefully, he said, contrasting this unfavorably with the "reasonable" U.S.-Syrian dialogue that occurred during the Nixon and Carter administrations. He condemned the U.S. raid on Libya as an attempt to assassinate the Libyan head of state, asserting that the U.S. planes targeted and destroyed a guest house in Tripoli because U.S. intelligence information was based on the misconception that the house was still used by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The U.S. raid on Libya also "greatly complicated" Syria's efforts to secure the release of U.S. and French hostages in Lebanon, the president stated, adding that Syria will do everything possible to secure their release.

Al-Asad also downplayed reports of Syrian-Israeli military tension, stating that there is "nothing unusual on the ground from our side or Israel's side." While accusing the Israelis of threatening Syria, he acknowledged that they are now "inclined toward calming down the situation." For its part, Syria is not planning to attack Israel but seeks to achieve military "parity," without which it will be difficult to achieve peace. Asked about the tripartite agreement in Lebanon, Al-Asad affirmed that Syria "will not object" if the parties involved seek to amend the agreement and he predicted that the road to Lebanese national accord will "reopen." The United States should stop obstructing the agreement because there is no U.S. interest in preserving the current situation, which provides a suitable climate for terrorism, he stressed.

The Syrian leader described relations with Iran as "good," confirming that the foreign minister's recent visit to Iran was linked with Syria's "continued efforts not to allow the scope of the Iraq-Iran war to expand to other countries." He denied that Syria's current problems with the Lebanese Hizballah are linked to any misunderstanding with Iran, noting that the disagreement with Hizballah stems from the latter's kidnapping activities.

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* reported 17 May that Al-Asad paid a secret visit to Moscow 15 May to discuss the Syrian-Israeli tension with Soviet leaders,

according to KUNA. As for Syria's military preparations in southern Lebanon, the Israeli defense minister disclosed 18 May that small Syrian forces are continuing fortification work but the Syrian Army has stopped its "creeping" movement southward toward the Israeli border, *DAVAR* reported.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio announced 17 May that it had been informed by an anonymous caller that the "Islamic Group" had liquidated "all" foreign hostages in the group's custody. However, the French hostages will be released shortly, according to an NBC report cited by the radio 19 May, which added that there have been no developments regarding the U.S. hostages.

After a 16 May meeting between President Amin al-Jumayyil and the new Soviet ambassador, Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said the latter told Al-Jumayyil that the USSR is ready to support a peace initiative and to help improve Lebanon's relations with Syria, AFP reported. The ambassador subsequently returned to Moscow for "urgent talks," Beirut radio noted, adding that "a decision has been made to hold Lebanese-Soviet negotiations to determine what the USSR can do to help Lebanon."

Libya-Egypt

JANA alleged that an Egyptian espionage network operating inside Libya placed transmitters on Jamahiriyah territory helping to guide the U.S. planes that bombed Tripoli and Banghazi last month. The agency's editor asserted that this "abominable, traitorous, subversive" action is "clear proof" of Egypt's complicity in the "Zionist crusade plan." On the other hand, the Cairo paper *MAYU*, in an article to be published 19 May and cited by MENA, asserted that this Libyan "claim" is an attempt to cover up its failure to convince the pilot of an Egyptian F-16 to defect with his plane and fly to the Libyan base at Tobruk. The paper revealed that the Egyptian pilot informed Egyptian intelligence of the plot, thus allowing them to foil it and to arrest the Libyan agent. In further reaction, the Cairo paper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*, cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, denied the Libyan "slander" and claimed it was a pretext for "possible measures" against Egyptians working in the Jamahiriyah.

While reporting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's congratulatory message to Israel on that country's founding anniversary, JANA warned that like Anwar al-Sadat, Mubarak "will pay the price of treason to the Arab cause." In a communication with ANSA, Mubarak was "sentenced to death" by the "virtually unknown" "Al-Aqsa" group which, in a communique, said the president is an ally of the "terrorist Reagan and the Tel Aviv scum."

Pakistan-DRA

In a news conference in Geneva, the UN secretary general's personal envoy to the talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, announced that the two sides agreed to extend their talks into a third week and revealed that an "understanding" had been reached on two undisclosed "major" issues, Karachi radio reported. Cordovez asserted that the understanding has generated "bright prospects" for progress at the talks.

Meanwhile, the radio reported that an Afghan Air Force plane was downed and another was hit when four Afghan planes attempted to violate Pakistani airspace near Parachinar 17 May. In a 19 May report, Karachi radio, citing the Pakistani Air Force deputy chief, reported that the downed plane was an SU-22. The radio also reported 17 May that Pakistan would lodge a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over the incident.

Kabul radio disclosed that the DRA "resolutely" rejected Pakistani accusations of attacks on Pakistani territory on 5, 8, 9, 10, and 13 May, and termed them "groundless."

Jordan

All of the students detained in the recent disturbances at Yarmuk University have been released on King Husayn's orders, Amman radio reported, adding that final examinations will proceed as scheduled. The radio also revealed that Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has set up a ministerial fact-finding committee to ascertain the reasons behind the university clashes.

In another development, Radio Monte Carlo cited Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib's announcement that the government has "detained" a number of persons for the sake of "safeguarding" national security. "Informed sources" in Amman cited in the same report speculated that the 17 detainees belong to the banned Jordanian Communist Party.

Qatar-Bahrain

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir opined that the differences between Qatar and Bahrain will be settled within "2 weeks," KUNA reported 17 May. On the other hand, "well-informed sources" cited by the Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ reported "complications" in the Fasht al-Dibal* dispute, and suggested that failure to reach an "immediate solution" will raise questions regarding the GCC's future. In another development, the London paper *AL-DUSTUR*, citing "well-informed sources" reported by the Manama paper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ*, asserted that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati assured his Qatari counterpart that Iran "will protect" Qatar in its dispute with Bahrain.

Sudan

The Lakes Province governor and seven other persons were killed 18 May when the military plane they were flying in was hit over the Rumbek area by a SAM-7 fired by "outlaws," according to a military source cited by SUNA.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 096 *19 May 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Pakistani Claims of Border Violations Rejected ..... C 1
Najibullah Addresses Northern Tribal Leaders ..... C 1
Najibullah Addresses Air Garrison on Revolution ..... C 1
Council of Ministers Approves USSR Cooperation Accord ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Further Reportage on Recent Parliamentary Elections ..... D 1
New Elections Demanded *[AFP]* ..... D 1
5 Killed in New Voting *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Election Results Detailed ..... D 1

INDIA

Soviet Envoy Reports on Situation at Chernobyl ..... E 1
Commission Not To Release Gandhi Assassination Report ..... E 1
Prime Minister Returns From 4-Nation African Visit ..... E 1
Further Details ..... E 1
Further Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab ..... E 2
3 Killed, 1 Injured ..... E 2
Sikh Priests Hold Barnala Guilty ..... E 2
Barnala To Undergo Atonement ..... E 2
Meeting of Bangladesh, Tripura Officials Begins ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Reportage on Downing of Afghan Plane Near Parachinar ..... F 1
Protest Lodged on Violations ..... F 1
Air Force Commander Gives Details ..... F 1
Indirect Talks in Geneva Extended; Progress Noted ..... F 1
Delhi: 4 Dead in Karachi Ethnic Clashes ..... F 1
Delhi: National Assembly Speaker Removed ..... F 1
President To Convene National Assembly 26 May ..... F 2
Delegation Leaves for PRC Visit 18 May ..... F 2
Afghan Mujahidin Down 3 Aircraft in Paktia Province ..... F 2
Mujahidin Down Soviet Plane in Takhar Province ..... F 2
Mujahidin Kill 33 Party Members in Farah Province ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Jaywardene Claims Tamil Nadu Supporting Tamils ..... G 1
Commissioner States Tamils Must Negotiate *[AFP]* ..... G 1
'Liberation Tigers' Leave Tamil Front *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Minister Stresses Conciliation in Ethnic Problem ..... G 1

IRAN

Majlis Speaker on Guards Corps-Navy Cooperation ..... I 1
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement Supporting Syria ..... I 1
Spokesman Denies Shelling of Iraqi City ..... I 1
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 1
Communique No 2,472 ..... I 1
11 Iraqi Helicopters Downed ..... I 2
Haj 'Umran Casualties 3,500 ..... I 2
Iraqi Warplane Downed ..... I 2
More Iraqi Aircraft Downed ..... I 2
100 Iraqis Killed in Panjwin Region ..... I 2
Communique No 2,474 ..... I 2
Iraqi Forces Pushed Back in Mehran ..... I 3
Iraqi Counterattack Smashed ..... I 3
Mehran, Bakhtaran, Ilam Clashes ..... I 3
'Heavy Battle' in Mehran ..... I 3

Pakistani Claims of Border Violations Rejected
LD171556 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 17 May (BAKHTAR) — The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1100 today and the following points were made to him by the director of First Political Section:

The Pakistani Government has once again made accusations that the DRA Armed Forces violated on 5 May 1986 the region of Pewar (?Defile) and (Shadalsal) near Parachinar; on 8 May 1986 the Khurram Agency region; on 9 May 1986 the Koti post; on 10 May 1986 the Dobandi region in Chaman; and on 13 May 1986 the Teri Mangal region in the Khurram Agency.

After an all-round assessment, the DRA Government considers these claims as groundless and untrue. It resolutely rejects these claims and states that the Pakistani authorities should end such lies which do nothing but aggravate the border situation.

Najibullah Addresses Northern Tribal Leaders
LD162243 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 15 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, today met with the elders, leaders, and representatives of the working people of the northern provinces in the Storay palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We now draw your attention to a speech delivered at this meeting by Comrade Najibollah:

[Begin recording] I am extremely delighted to meet with you, the elders, leaders, and youth of the honorable, working, and courageous nationalities of the northern regions — the Uzbek, Turkmen, and other nationalities. The Uzbeks and Turkmen have lived, worked, and fought in ancient Afghanistan, in our ancestral homeland, together with other nationalities, clans, and tribes. Their history, culture, and destiny have been the same.

In order to ensure the full legal and economic equality of the nationalities, including the Uzbeks and the Turkmens, the DRA Government has taken a number of steps. Schools in the Uzbek and Turkmen languages have been established in order to overcome illiteracy. Newspapers and publications have been commissioned to strengthen the culture of these nationalities. Similarly, other measures aimed at ensuring the equality of rights, (?such as) mass media, radio and television, have [words indistinct] the lives of our Uzbeks and Turkmens. These are all good and correct. However, you esteemed cormades should know that these are not sufficient. The PDPA and the DRA Government should take further broad, firm, specific, and practical steps in accordance with the requirements of the present phase of the national democratic revolution. [applause] The queston of equality and brotherhood should not be (?generalized) in mere words and phrases. We know from the history of progressive and advanced nations of the world that precise, scientific, practical, specific, and constructive steps should be taken aimed at ensuring the equality of rights of the nationalities.

Noble compatriots, it is true that the [words indistinct] process of legal equality and true equality needs time. It is true that this issue is linked with the process of social development and of maintaining social and economic justice in the country, and these cannot be separated. It is true that in the conditions of the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan, the issues of crushing the counterrevolution, strengthening the Armed Forces, securing the borders, expanding and consolidating state power, defending the country's independence, national sovereignty, and freedom are important. But we cannot forget for a moment that in the process of the evolution of progressive (?tasks) we cannot leave social and political tasks aside. [applause]

We firmly believe that this country will be (?reconstructed), and that all of us will raise the victorious banner of this country on the victorious peaks of this homeland. [applause] And we will live like brothers. Our Afghanistan will be beautiful, prosperous, and proud. May you also be prosperous, proud, and successful. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Najibullah Addresses Air Garrison on Revolution
LD172225 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 May 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this morning visited the various sections of Bagram air garrison. Having taken part in the meeting of officers, soldiers, and officials of that command, he commended the role of the heroic DRA Armed Forces in defense of national independence, territorial integrity, and the lofty objectives of the April Revolution.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Comrade Najibullah arrived about 0900 this morning at the Bagram airport accompanied by Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and defense minister; Major General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of Army Political Affairs; Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, state security minister; Brigadier General 'Abdolhaq Ulumi, responsible for the Department of Defense and Justice of the PDPA Central Committee; and Nematollah, head of the central zone.

Comrade Najibullah made some points about the active role of our heroic Armed Forces in safeguarding the outcome of the April Revolution and said:

[Begin Najibullah recording in Dari] Dear comrades. Some time ago the freedom-loving people of our revolutionary homeland celebrated the 8th anniversary of the victory of the glorious April Revolution. In the years since the victory of the revolution, the people of Afghanistan have achieved many successes in various spheres of economic, social, political, and cultural life. In our country more than 95 large and small economic establishments have been completed. The salary of workers and employees has been increased by 33 percent and 313,000 landless peasants and small landholders have received land through the state. More than 1,300 agricultural cooperatives and about 140 consumer cooperatives have been created in the country. In the years 1363 and 1364 [1363 began 21 March 84] the national income has

increased by 14.3 percent. The DRA has constantly paid attention to the construction of houses, nurseries, hospitals, polyclinics, and schools. During the last 5 years, the number of hospital beds has increased by 84 percent and doctors by 45 percent. More than one million people have become literate and the circulation of newspapers and journals has increased by 2.8 times.

Our country's political system has been consolidated. The social [words indistinct] of the revolution is developing. The number of party members has reached 155,000 as compared with 18,000 at the begining of the April Revolution. In the ranks of the National Fatherland Front, more than 700,000 people have been mobilized and the patriotic youth members of the DYOA are actively fighting in the armed struggle against the counterrevolutionaries. Afghan women are more actively participating in all spheres of our society and at present more than 40,000 Afghan women and girls are organized in the DWOA.

The elections for the local organs of state power and administration started in the summer of 1364 [1364 began 21 March 85] and among the people's representatives for the local organs, 57 percent are non-party members. All these are manifestations of the fact that the authority and prestige of revolutionary power in the DRA increases day by day and that the social foundation of the revolutionary state is strengthening daily.

The DRA Loya Jirga and the High Jirga for Tribes and Nationalities, on the whole, constitute the outcome of the revolution in our dear country. They have confirmed the state's foreign and internal policy. (?Despite) the success achieved, the process of building a new society in our dear country has been difficult. First of all, the problems and difficulties have been created by the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction. The DRA Armed Forces are playing an important role in defending the glorious April Revolution. The Armed Forces, together with all of Afghanistan's working people, are competently defending the outcome of the revolution.

The important and responsible task of struggle against counterrevolutionaries is entrusted to the DRA air force and air defense forces, both today and in the future. The air force and air defense forces have the task of safeguarding the country's airspace and of delivering practical and useful help to the ground forces so they can carry out successful combat operations to crush rebel bands and counterrevolutionaries. In the future, the air force should give more aid to the DRA Armed Forces, state bodies, and establishments in transporting goods and state commodities, as well as more passengers.

The PDPA Central Committee is well aware that our air force has shown heroism and (?feats) in their struggle against counterrevolutionaries. [applause] In the battlefield, most of the pilots and flight personnel have displayed heroism, self-sacrifice, and bravery. The technical, engineering, communication, and logistic personnel are carrying out indefatigable work in order to provide for air missions, as well as the lasting fulfillment of battle and air combat requirements. The party and state have paid and will pay constant attention to the Armed Forces, and from them to the air force and the air defense forces. The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Revolutionary Council have approved several resolutions to financially and morally commend the Armed Forces personnel displaying competence and bravery in carrying out their combat tasks. The party and state will also strive in the future to improve the life of Army personnel from the aspect of their living conditions. It is certain that significant attention will be paid to air force personnel and especially to flight personnel.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Revolutionary Council are fully confident that the personnel of the air force and air defense forces will competently fulfill their tasks and responsibilities with honor and honesty in the defense of the outcome of the revolution. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Comrade Najibullah observed a minute of silence to show respect for those officers and soldiers of the air force and the air defense forces who have lost their lives in defending the human objectives of the glorious April Revolution and prayed for their souls to be happy.

On behalf of the personnel of Bagram air garrison, a commander, during a short speech, expressed his support for and affirmation for the resolutions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and assured Comrade Najibullah that he will exert all his efforts and energy to defend the April Revolution and its outcome and will not spare any self-sacrifice in this regard. At the end of his speech, he presented a memorial gift from the personnel of Bagram air garrison to Comrade Najibullah who accepted it with thanks.

Council of Ministers Approves USSR Cooperation Accord
LD180617 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 17, BAKHTAR — In the light of the agreements reached between Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of the CC of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA and the Soviet side in Moscow, last April, the document on common measures for the implementation of the items of Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement concluded between the two countries on August 27, 1985 were approved by the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

In line with this document the work relating to geology and exploration of the gas deposits in northern Afghanistan during 1986-1990 in the existing and new mines will be further intensified. Exploration of the new gas mines, expansion of the gas industry, laying of gas pipelines, extension of electric power lines, construction of electric pylons, power stations roads and other auxiliary projects are envisaged under the program. Training of technical cadres for the projects, construction of residential areas, service and cultural centers for the use of workers and specialists will also be undertaken in Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan cities.

The implementation of this program will play an important role in the consolidation of the national economy and the raising of the living standard of the people. The agreement is a guarantor of ever expanding friendly cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Further Reportage on Recent Parliamentary Elections

New Elections Demanded

BK171419 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 17 (AFP) — The chief of the Moslem fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami Party Saturday rejected the results of recent parliamentary polls and demanded fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government. Moulana Abbas Ali Khan, acting chief of the Jami'at, told a rally staged in front of the Baitul Mukkarram Mosque here: "The way the polls were conducted was not free and fair. We reject the polls and demand fresh election but not under the present military regime."

The Jami'at — a right-wing party which contested the May 7 polls despite earlier plans to boycott the election — has won 10 of the 168 seats so far declared in unofficial counts. "All others who have won the polls have committed robbery of votes using muscle tactics and intimidation. The parliament cannot thus be a fair representation of the public opinion," Moulana Abbas said. However, the opposition leader failed to specify whether his party would in fact sit in parliament or boycott it.

The Jami'at had organised the rally to protest alleged widespread election fraud in the May 7 polls. Several hundred supporters turned out in spite of heavy rain to attend the rally.

5 Killed in New Voting

BK190445 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 19 (AFP) — Violence during fresh voting in two constituencies in Bangladesh's parliamentary election Sunday left at least five dead, officials and party sources said Monday. Fresh polling was held in several areas Sunday after voting in those centres was suspended due to violence during the May 7 parliamentary election. More than 30 people died and more than 300 were wounded, according to unofficial estimates. Officials said three people were killed at Mathbaria in southern Pirojpur District Sunday, about 200 kilometers (130 miles) from here.

The daily *SANGBAD* reported from the area that the three were killed when police fired to control mobs of supporters of two rival independent candidates. The mobs had attacked each other as well as local administration offices and police.

Awami League sources here said two people died and more than 20 were wounded in police firing when trouble erupted during polling at Ramu in Cox's Bazar District, 350 kilometers (160 miles) southeast of here.

A newspaper said the two died in clashes between supporters of the pro-government Jatiya Party and the opposition Awami League.

An official in the district administration in Pirojpur told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday that the district administrator and police chief had visited Mathbaria Sunday and had talks with local leaders, and additional police were sent to the area. He said the area was still tense Monday.

Election Results Detailed

BK190759 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] The Election Commission today announced unofficial result of one more constituency. This is Comilla-1 where Mohammad Mubarak Ali, advocate of Jatiya Party, became winner with 46,876 votes after repolling in 4 centers of the constituency held yesterday. His nearest rival, Amjad Hassan, independent, got 46,851 votes.

This brings the total number of constituencies to 287, of which unofficial results have been announced.

The latest party position is Jatiya Party 149; Awami League 73; Jami'at-e Islami 10; CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] 5; NAP [National Awami Party]-United 5; Muslim League 4; BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awamil League] 3; JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal]-Siraj 3; Workers Party 3; NAP-Muzaffar 2; JSD-Rob 2; independents 28.

Soviet Envoy Reports on Situation at Chernobyl

BK151600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The Soviet Union today apprised India of its steps taken to deal with the recent accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The Soviet ambassador in New Delhi, Mr V.N. Rykov, met the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr N.P. Jain, and assured him that the most difficult problems arising out of the accident have already been effectively tackled. The Soviet Government, he said, is monitoring the situation constantly and making earnest efforts to eliminate any harmful effects of the accident. Mr Rykov also drew Mr Jain's attention to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's television address last night in which he reaffirmed his readiness to meet President Reagan without any delay in any European capital or in Hiroshima, which was devastated by the first ever nuclear attack.

Commission Not To Release Gandhi Assassination Report

BK161622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The government today submitted in the Delhi High Court that in the interest of security of state and also in public interest, it will not be expedient to lay before parliament the report of the Thakkar Commission [appointed to investigate Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination].

In its reply to the show-cause notice issued to the government by division bench of the High Court, the standing counsel, Mr R.K. Anand, said it is not obligatory for the center to place the commission's report before parliament in view of the ordinance promulgated by the president. The show-cause notice was given following a petition moved by the defense counsel in the Indira Gandhi murder case. The writ petition is to come up for arguments in the High Court on Monday.

Prime Minister Returns From 4-Nation African Visit

BK190548 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, returned to New Delhi a short while ago at the end of his 4-nation African tour of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Tanzania. He was received at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and others.

Speaking to newsmen, the prime minister said that his visit to four African states has been very successful. Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that it will help strengthen India's solidarity with the Frontline African States. He said his visit will give an added thrust to the anti-apartheid movement in the African Continent.

Speaking about Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said that of late it appears from reports that the Sri Lankan Government is moving toward a military solution of the ethnic problem. He said that India still believes that a political solution is the only solution to the issue. He said India will continue its efforts toward this end.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that he has discussed with the African leaders apartheid, South Africa, South-South cooperation, and the Commonwealth. He also said the situation in those countries also came up for discussion.

At Dar es Salaam, addressing a press conference, the prime minister said that India wants to expand political and economic cooperation with the Frontline African States to frustrate Pretoria's attempts at destablizing the region. Mr Rajiv Gandhi ruled out the possibility of any military aid to these countries. He said that his visit was to express solidarity with these countries in their struggle against apartheid. The prime minister said the situation in South Africa has reached an explosive stage and if not handled properly it will lead to tremendous bloodshed. He announced that India will press for fresh line of action at the forthcoming Commonwealth summit in London to deal with the problem.

Mr Gandhi told newsmen that India and Tanzania have reached a broad agreement on bringing about an agricultural revolution in Tanzania. A delegation will visit India soon in this connection, he said. The prime ministers earlier, addressing the Indian community there, asked them to involve themselves in the process of development of Tanzania. During the day, he met the former president of Tanzania, Mr Julius Nyerere, and had lunch with him. Other Tanzanian ministers also called on Mr Gandhi and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. The Tanzanian president, Mr 'Ali Hasan Mwinyi, drove with Mr Gandhi to the airport to give him an affectionate send-off.

Further Details

BK190854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 May 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Sri Lanka Government appears to be moving toward a military solution to the ethnic problem. Speaking to newsmen soon after his arrival at New Delhi airport from Dar es Salaam this morning, he said even at this stage steps could be taken toward a political solution to the ethnic conflict. Sri Lanka's thinking on the problem seems to be changing as it had diluted the proposals discussed in Colombo between the Indian delegation and the Sri Lankan leaders recently. Mr Gandhi said the proposals submitted to the Indian team by the Sri Lanka Government are being considered and will be put before Tamils. Pointing out that the proposals submitted by the Indian team were good, the prime minister hoped that Colombo would seriously ponder over the matter and strive to find a political solution to its ethnic problem.

The prime minister said his talks with the African leaders would help strengthen and bolster the efforts of Frontline States in bringing down the system of apartheid in South Africa. Mr Gandhi said that none of the leaders of the Frontline States has asked for arms and if they ask for it we will see at that time what to do. But India's policy is not to be a supplier of arms and we have no intention of changing the policy.

Mr Gandhi said the eminent people's group set up at the Nassau Commonwealth summit has achieved some success in their

efforts to meet the jailed African leader, Mr Nelson Mandela. They are holding talks with the Pretoria regime. The key issue is to do away with apartheid. The prime minister said that there is much scope to improve trade and bilateral relations between India and the Frontline States. There will be exchange of visits by experts from both sides to identify areas of cooperation and discuss details of assistance that India could offer.

When a reporter drew the prime minister's attention to Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq's charge that India is helping the Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, Mr Gandhi said India is neither helping anybody nor is there any need for it.

About the initiative taken by the 5-continent 6-nation group on nuclear disarmament, Mr Gandhi said there has been a good response from the Soviet Union. We welcome the Soviet Union's extension of unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. The prime minister said that the 6-nation group has not received any response from other nuclear states in this regard. He hoped that they would respond similarly by the time the signatories of the 6-nation initiative on peace and disarmament meet in Mexico on 6 August.

Further Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

3 Killed, 1 Injured

BK170306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] In Punjab three persons were killed and one injured in separate incidents of violence in Gurdaspur and Ferozepore Districts last night [16 May]. Two persons were killed and one injured when two groups of suspected terrorists opened fire in Wadala-Bangra near Kalanaur in Gurdaspur District. Meanwhile, police claimed to have arrested seven wanted terrorists after an encounter near Amritsar.

Sikh Priests Hold Barnala Guilty

BK170851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, today appeared before the five Sikh head priests in Amritsar. According to UNITED NEWS of INDIA one of the priests said that they had held Mr Barnala guilty of having hurt Sikh religious sentiments by ordering the police to enter the Golden Temple complex last month. But Mr Barnala later told newsmen that he has been exonerated by the high priests.

The chief minister, who flew to Amritsar from Chandigarh this morning, said that last month's police entry into the temple complex to flush out extremists and antisocial elements had created some misconception. But, he added, he had cleared these up with the high priests at the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion]. However, the head priest of the Golden Temple, Mr Sahib Singh, said while performing the ardas [prayers] at the conclusion of a special meeting that Mr Barnala had been held guilty and would be exonerated only after he underwent religious punishment awarded to him.

Barnala To Undergo Atonement

BK171259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] On a directive by the five Sikh head priests the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, today appeared before them at Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] in Amritsar. In a written statement later, the head priests said that Mr Barnala had given an explanation for the police action in the Golden temple complex last month.

Mr Barnala stated in his explanation that the police action was taken in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Sarbat Khalsa [highest Sikh congregation] at Anandpur Saheb. But the head priests felt that the police action had caused pain and sorrow and some unpleasant incidents had taken place. The head priests, therefore, asked Mr Barnala to undergo atonement. According to PTI, Mr Barnala agreed to perform seva — service — at Anandpur Saheb daily for 1 week.

While Mr Barnala was appearing before the head priests, a group of people held a noisy demonstration and raised slogans. Police registered a case of sedition against them.

Mr Barnala told newsmen later that he was not declared guilty of religious misconduct by the head priests. He clarified that he had appeared at the Akal Takht as an ordinary Sikh and not as chief minister.

Meeting of Bangladesh, Tripura Officials Begins

BK171421 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] A flag meeting between the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] Border Security Force of Tripura and his Bangladesh counterpart — the sector commander of Chittagong Hill Tracts — began at Sabroom in South Tripura this morning. Quoting BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangsatha] sources our Agartala correspondent reports that the meeting is discussing the modalities of the return of tribal refugees to Bangladesh.

Reportage on Downing of Afghan Plane Near Parachinar

Protest Lodged on Violations

BK181544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul administration over the four Afghan aircraft's violation of Pakistan's airspace near Parachinar yesterday. One of these Afghan aircraft was shot down while another was hit. The wreckage of the downed Afghan plane came down nearly 15 km from the Afghan border inside Pakistani territory. The Kabul administration's Armed Forces also fired their artillery last Wednesday [14 May]. The Afghan artillery shells landed on Kotri and Teri Mangal and on the Frontier Corps posts near Parachinar. As a result of this shelling, 20 Afghan refugees were wounded.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and was asked to convey to his superiors that all responsibility for the serious consequences of such unprovoked activities will lie with the Kabul administration if such activities are not stopped.

Air Force Commander Gives Details

BK190432 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 86

[Text The two Afghan planes fired on by Pakistani Air Force F-16's on Saturday [17 May] morning for violating Pakistani airspace are presumed to be of SU-22 type. One of these planes was downed. A group of journalists, including foreign correspondents, saw the wreckage of the plane during their visit to Parachinar, where the incident took place.

Giving details of this operation to journalists, the Pakistani Air Force deputy chief, air chief operations, and air officer commanding — northern air command — said four Afghan planes violated Pakistani airspace and entered Pakistani territory. Two planes, presumably of SU-22 type, were confronted by two Pakistani F-16's. Two missiles were fired at a plane, one (?moving away) and the other hitting the intruder. Later, artillery [as heard] rounds were fired on the second Afghan plane. Although this plane succeed in escaping, it was seen emitting smoke.

Wreckage of the damaged plane comprises mostly the pieces of its tail end, fragments of flight control surfaces, and other such pieces. It is stated that the downed Afghan plane was shot down in Pakistani territory from a height of 18,000 feet. The Pakistani F-16's were on patrol at the time because of the various airspace violations from Afghanistan.

In reply to a question on the other Afghan plane, he said it may not have escaped as it would be difficult for it to maintain control after being hit. This plane would have crashed in the long mountain range. He said the Afghan planes intruded 20 miles into Pakistani territory and they were intercepted within 4 or 5 minutes of their intrusion. He said the bombs the Afghan planes dropped before they were engaged by the F-16's were of the 500-pound type.

Indirect Talks in Geneva Extended; Progress Noted

BK161549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan, now being held in Geneva, has been extended into a 3d week. This was stated by the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, at a Geneva news conference which was called on the conclusion of the 2d week of the current round of talks on the future of Afghanistan.

Cordovez said Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the Kabul administration's foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, have decided that the current round of talks should be continued into next week also. According to the previous program, the current talks were to end today. The main question regarding the time frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan will be discussed next week.

Cordovez announced that the two sides have reached an understanding on two major issues which had created considerable difficulties in the past. He said: I can now say that this new understanding has generated bright prospects for the progress of the UN-sponsored talks. Cordovez said the atmosphere of the talks so far has been favorable.

Both sides are extremely serious regarding the solution of the problem which reflects their desire for the settlement of the issue. He said the progress made at the talks thus far can be termed as real and technical progress.

Cordovez said the main question of a time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet forces will be discussed during next week's talks, although this question has dominated discussions during the past weeks because it is related to the issues of noninterference, voluntary return of refugees, and the principles of international guarantees.

Delhi: 4 Dead in Karachi Ethnic Clashes

BK160303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] In Pakistan, at least four persons were shot dead and six others wounded in ethnic clashes in Karachi yesterday. The authorities said that fighting erupted in the Orangi slum area of the city when members of the Pathan and the Bihari ethnic groups began shooting at each other and setting fire to buildings.

Delhi: National Assembly Speaker Removed

BK180345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the ruling Muslim League parliamentary party has decided to remove the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Syed Fakhr Imam.

A spokesman of the party said the speaker consistently behaved in a partisan manner detrimental to the working of the National Assembly.

President To Convene National Assembly 26 May

BK181551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] The president has summoned the National Assembly session on the 26th of this month at the State Bank Building in Islamabad at 1000.

Delegation Leaves for PRC Visit 18 May

BK180645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] A 5-member Pakistani delegation led by the minister of state for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Nawaz Khan Marwat, left Islamabad this morning for Beijing to take part in celebrations beginning Wednesday to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the delegation head said they are taking with them the Pakistani people's good wishes for the people of China.

He also noted China's assistance to Pakistan, especially in the field of science and technology. The opening of the Khunjerab Pass to traffic and the construction of the Karakoram highway have further strengthened the friendly relations between the two countries.

The Pakistani delegation's visit will further promote the friendly and special relationship between China and Pakistan, he observed.

A similar Chinese good-will delegation led by member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and vice chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Fu Hao, arrives in Pakistan tomorrow.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent says the two countries have made elaborate arrangements to celebrate the occasion, which shows the exemplary relationship existing between China and Pakistan.

Afghan Mujahidin Down 3 Aircraft in Paktia Province

BK170326 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] According to a report, the mujahidin in Afghanistan shot down three aircraft in the (Zawiya) region of Paktia Province. Clashes also occurred between the mujahidin and occupying Soviet forces who were trying to contain the situation in Qandahar.

The Soviet Forces, during the clashes, damaged the famous mosque in Qandahar where the holy prophet's clothes and other rare artifiacts are preserved. The mosque building was severely damaged, but the articles belonging to the holy prophet remained intact [words indistinct]. The mujahidin killed (?16) Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed tanks and armored vehicles.

Mujahidin Down Soviet Plane in Takhar Province

BK171522 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] According to reports Afghan mujahidin recently shot down a Soviet plane in fierce fighting with Soviet-Karmal troops in Takhar Province. The mujahidin also damaged many other Soviet fighter planes. According to the reports, during this operation the mujahidin killed many officials of the Soviet-supported Kabul regime.

Mujahidin Kill 33 Party Members in Farah Province

BK190626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin exterminated 33 members of the ruling party in Farah Province recently. These members of the ruling party had gone to the Khash Rud area of the province to instigate the people against mujahidin. Another report says mujahidin attacked the (Sarghar) military camp in Zabul Province at the beginning of this month killing 15 soldier of the Soviet-Kabul forces and damaging several tanks and armored cars.

SRI LANKA

Jaywardene Claims Tamil Nadu Supporting Tamils

BK181117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] President Jayewardene has deplored the fact that the people in the north are unable to enjoy democratic freedom due to rampant terrorist activities. Speaking at a religious ceremony at the (Relevata Shrisudarama Vilarya) yesterday, the president stressed that terrorism has to be wiped out totally if the people in the north are to regain their lost freedom. He went on to explain that terrorism has not only disrupted normal life in the country, but also led to mass killings among the terrorist groups themselves. While observing that terrorism is not confined to Sri Lanka, the president welcomed international efforts to curb this menace.

The president accused the Tamil Nadu government of giving sanctuary to Tamil terrorists and providing with material support in addition to official recognition. He warned that the long-term effects of such action would be felt with the spread of terrorism across India. While pledging to hoid general elections according to schedule, Mr Jayewardene pointed out that it was the duty of all sections of the community to assist the government in its attempt to wipe out terrorism.

High Commissioner States Tamils Must Negotiate

NC181952 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 18 May 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, May 18 (AFP) — Sri Lanka told India Sunday that it will offer no more clarifications on its latest proposals to end the ethnic strife in the island nation until Tamil militants came to the negotiation table, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

he Sri Lankan view was conveyed by High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna to federal minister for personnel, P. Chidambaram, in a meeting here. Mr Tilakaratna called on Mr Chidambaram, who led an Indian delegation to Colombo two weeks ago, to discuss the ethnic problem, PTI said.

PTI said Mr Tilakaratna expressed the hope that the militants would respond positively to the government's stand, which follows a statement last week by the Indian foreign minister, P. Shiv Shankar, expressing disappointment over the Sri Lankan response to Indian queries on its proposals. Mr Tilakaratna told Mr Chidambaram that unless Tamil militants came forward to discuss the latest proposals, there would be no point in providing clarifications. Tamil groups on the other hand charge the government with willing innocent Tamils and say they will not discuss government proposals until this is stopped.

'Liberation Tigers' Leave Tamil Front

NC171919 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] New Delhi, May 17 (AFP) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has decided to opt out of a Sri Lankan Tamil militants front temporarily, a spokesman for the LTTE said Saturday. "We are out of the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) for the time being. But we have not taken any decision to pull out altogether" the PRESS TRUST of INDIA quoted LTTE spokesman A.S. Balasingham as saying in the southern city of Madras. LTTE, one of four groups comprising the ENLF, has recently been involved in bloody clashes with another constituent — the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO). The other members of the ENLF are the Eelam People's Revolutionary Front (EPRF) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (ERO) and leaders of all four groups have sought refuge in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

LTTE, which like other Tamil militant organisations, is fighting for greater political autonomy in Sinhala-dominated Sri Lanka, alleges that TELO members indulge in hooliganism.

Early this month, guerrillas belonging to the two groups fought a gunbattle in Sri Lanka and a TELO leader, Sri Sabaratnam, was killed in it.

PTI quoted Mr Balasingham as saying LTTE had "serious differences" with TELO. "We have officially not walked out of the ENLF but its meeting have become an exercise in futility with some of the leaders taking no action against their men who indulge in crimes against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka," Mr Balasingham said.

LTTE says guerrillas belonging to the TELO extort money from Tamil plantation workers settled in Northern Sri Lanka, a charge vehemently denied by TELO.

Minister Stresses Conciliation in Ethnic Problem

BK171123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that it is futile at this stage to trace the origins of the (?northern) terrorist movement, nor is it relevant to find out the persons responsible for this physical outburst. He emphasized that the prime need of the day is to close ranks and face this threat with confidence and determination.

Addressing a religious function at (Rakwan) yesterday, the minister reiterated that the only solution to this problem is the political settlement. He went on to explain that continued close contacts with the Indian Government together with the strengthening of the Armed Forces would pave the way to a political settlement.

The minister told the gathering that approximately 70,000 young men and women are assisting the separatist terrorist movement in numerous ways. In this context, he observed that the Buddhist public does not advocate the total destruction or elimination of this youth force. It is necessary and most vital that the misdirected youths be brought back to their senses and rehabilitated in society.

Mr Athulathmudali further said that the situation in the Eastern Province has improved considerably.

Majlis Speaker on Guards Corps-Navy Cooperation

LD182300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] According to an IRNA report, during a meeting with a group of Navy cadres of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stressing the importance and necessity of the creation of that force, said: We have great expectations for this new force.

Referring to the sensitive and vital role of the sea for the Islamic Republic of Iran, he stated: The presence of the superpowers in the Indian Ocean — which they would not let go easily — and the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region, the Strait of Hormuz, the Guif of Oman, the coasts of Baluchestan va Sistan and Hormozgan are matters that we cannot overlook. He added: In the north, the Caspian Sea is a very vital area for us, which requires our serious presence.

Referring to the powerful presence of the Iranian Navy in the Persian gulf and the Gulf of Oman and its role in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, he said: Despite what our enemies suggest, the Iranian Navy is glad for the presence of the Guards Corps Navy alongside it, to fill our vacuum at sea. [as heard] As the Ground Forces are encouraged by the presence of the Corps alongside it, due to the vastness of the sea, this means a great deal more to the Navy. No doubt with your greater presence at sea, they [the Navy] would feel more encouraged.

Praising the Iranian Navy for its efforts in safeguarding Iran's coasts and maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, he stated: We have safeguarded our coasts in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman using the Navy. We hope that with the expansion of your activities, this presence will increase. As you showed during the "Val-Fajr-8" operation, you can cooperate well with each other. He added: The important point to be noted is that the southern sea [Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman] is where there is always the possibility of great danger. With initiative and accurate planning you can resort to actions in proportion to our strength and facilities in the face of the vast naval strength of powerful countries. He said: I am told that the Guards Corps Navy has taken measures enabling its role in guarding the sea to be as effective as a warship. [as heard]

Referring to our economic need of the sea, he stressed: With your long-standing and valuable experience of the Navy and its use of the presence of popular forces at sea, a considerable force will definitely be created in the world, the likes of which cannot be seen anywhere else. He added: If you create this desired force with the cooperation of the Armed Forces, no fleet carrying marines could compete with you, as they cannot on land. Our neighbors in the southern Persian Gulf should feel reassured by your presence.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement Supporting Syria

LD171727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] In the wake of military provocations by the Zionist regime against the fraternal country of Syria the following statement was issued this evening by our country's foreign ministry: In His exalted name. America and the usurping Jerusalem regime have been recently engaged in preparing the ground to launch a military attack against the fraternal and Muslim country of Syria. While raising the issue of terrorism and how to confronting it, they have been embarking on propaganda attack against Syria trying to justify their aggressive acts against revolutionary and progressive countries of the region.

While condemning such political and hostile propaganda, which stem from the aggressive U.S. nature as well as the ominous aggressive intentions of Israel, and while declaring its absolute support for Syria and standing side by side with our Syrian brethren against U.S. and the Jerusalem-occupying regime's plots, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry points regrettably to the failure to demonstrate any appropriate reaction on the part of Arab and Islamic countries in condemning the recent U.S. military aggression against the Muslim country of Libya which only encourages the United States to resort to further aggression against other countries. However, the United States and the Jerusalem-occupying regime must bear in mind that Islamic and Arab nations, as in the past, will not submit to terrorist extortions by the U.S. Government; that, wherever necessary, they will respond appropriately to the insane measures taken by these enemies of Islam. Should any military aggression be undertaken, these nations will defeat them, as they did in the case of Lebanon.

Spokesman Denies Shelling of Iraqi City

LD170539 Tehran IRNA in English 0532 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — The spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Saturday categorically denied the Iraqi claim alleging Iran of having bombed Khanaqin, Diyala Province, Friday. He told IRNA that the Iraqi regime was resorting to such fabrications to justify its crimes. "The Islamic combatants of Iran have not attacked Iraqi cities and if they have to do so, it will be announced beforehand," he told IRNA.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,472

LD161747 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in an area 10 miles west of Rawanduz at coordinated 36.39 degrees north and 44.32 degrees east at 06:15 hours local time (02:45 GMT) Friday, according to a military communique. It added that the Iranian fighter-bombers all returned to their bases safely after inflicting heavy damages and causalties on the Iraqi forces.

Communique Number 2472 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants demolished some 15 Iraqi bunkers, observation posts, vehicles as well as a number of mortar launchers in western fronts setting ablaze a munitions depot and killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy forces. The communique said that a moving vehicle column of the enemy comprising 50 vehicles was observed in Mandali operational region where it was

subjected to the fire of the Muslim forces of Iran and sustained considerable damages and casualties.

In Sumar operational region, the Iranian Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee as it was trying to penetrate their positions, according to the Joint Staff. The communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts, being somewhat more intense in Pich-e Angizah operational region, during which the fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants prevented enemy engineering efforts. The Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded a great number of Iraqi troops in the said region while destroying their bunkers, it added.

In Faqqeh operational region, the Muslim fighters of Iran pounded 40 to 50 advancing Iraqi tanks demolishing some of them along with their crew and forcing others to flee, according to the communique. Iran's anti-aircraft fire doened an Iraqi copter in Nahr-Anbar operational region, the communique said. The Joint Staff said that Iran's genedarmerie forces prevented the enemy movements in Dehloran and Abadan operational regions disrupting their engineering efforts. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was shelled by Iraqi artillery fire Thursday, the communique concluded.

11 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

GF161813 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Dear viewers, according to a report just handed to us from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, fierce anti-aircraft fire by the Islamic troops in height No 2,519 in the Haj 'Umran area, brought down nine more helicopters of the Zionist Ba'thist enemy. This means that a total of 11 helicopters of the Iraqi Armed Forces have been shot down during today's fighting. This brings the total of downed helicopters over the past few days in the Hajj Umran operational area to 22. According to this report, a number of people in the helicopters were captured by the Islamic forces after their craft were downed.

Haj 'Umran Casualties 3,500

LD161958 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ, May 16, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers Thursday night in Hajj 'umran region bringing the number of enemy casualties to 3,500 during the past three days of clashes, according to Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, Friday. Iranian Muslim combatants shot down two more Iraqi helicopters during Thursday night operations bringing the number of downed copters of the enemy to 13.

Also captured was another group of Iraqi soldiers of whom 15 have been transferred behind the fronts. Iraqi commando battalion "Al-Ta'nim" was smashed and fatal blows were inflicted on infantry 98 and 431 of the enemy, while Iraqi equipment and communication gear were also destroyed during Thursday night's operations. Meanwhile, Iranian fighter bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in Rawanduz, Irbil Province in north Iraq. The planes all returned to their bases safely.

Iraqi Warplane Downed

LD171117 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 17 IRNA — An Iraqi Warplane was shot Down in Haj 'Umran Region, 100 Kms north east of Iraq's provincial capital city of Irbil Saturday. The Hamizeh Seyyed al-Shohada military operational headquarters has confirmed the report. During the past three days, 22 Iraqi helicopters, one airplane, and tens of tanks and personnel carriers were demolished and thousands of enemy troops were killed in a futile Iraqi attack in Haj 'Umran and its heights.

More Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD181652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] According to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday and today the combatants of Islam shot down six more helicopters of the aggressor enemy in the Haj 'Umran sector, bringing the number of enemy helicopters shot down during the past few days' clashes in the Haj 'Umran sector to 28. Also, yesterday and today three more invading enemy aircraft were shot down by the defensive fire of the forces of Islam in the Haj 'Umran sector. Iranian Air Force pilots, with a number of fighter-bombers, bombed enemy concentration points in northeastern Rawanduz in Iraq -- coordinates 36 degrees 37 minutes north and 44 degrees 49 minutes east at 1413 hours today. They all returned safely to their bases after inflicting heavy losses and casualties.

100 Iraqis Killed in Panjwin Region

LD170934 Teran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA -- Iran's Islamic combatants killed 100 Iraqi troops and wounded a large number of others during a patrol-combat operation in Panjwin region southeast of Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah on Thursday. During the operation carried out in five axes in the said region some enemy positions and equipment were also demolished.

Communique No 2,474

LD181706 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — A military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic here Sunday said one of a number of intruding Iraqi planes had been shot down by Iran's surface-to-air fire near 'Qotur' railway bridge in West Azarbaijan Province at 05:30 hours GMT Sunday.

The Joint Staff communique number 2474 said that Iranian naval units intercepted and inspected two cargo ships sailing

under foreign flags near the Hormuz Strait Saturday, but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related materials for the Iraqi regime.

In the western fronts, the communique said, exchange of artillery fire continued somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Mehran as a result of which many Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven bunkers and observation posts of theirs destroyers. According to the communique many Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers demolished during artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran in the northwestern fronts Saturday. Iran's gendarmerie combatants opened fire on Iraqi positions across Abadan and Khorramshahr killing or wounding a number of the Iraqi soldiers and preventing their engineering operations Saturday and Sunday.

Iraqi Forces Pushed Back in Mehran

LD181738 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 18 May 86

["Iraqi Aggressors Losing in Mehran" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov., May 18, IRNA — Muslim combatants of the Islamic Republic have not only halted Iraqi forces in Mehran but pushed them back several kilometers, said military sources here Sunday. During the operation Iraqi forces suffered considerable casualties and several of their tanks and military vehicles were destroyed, the sources said. Continuous and heavy fighting between the two sides is reported to be going on in the region.

Iraqi Counterattack Smashed

LD171645 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Prov., May 17, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counter-attack between Mehran and Changuleh early Saturday, killing or wounding about 300 Iraqi soldiers. At least 35 Iraqi tanks and vehicles were destroyed during the counter-assault.

Mehran, Bakhtaran, Ilam Clashes

LD171717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Reports from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate that one of the aggressive Iraqi aircraft was hit by the fire of the anti-aircraft defense unit of the forces of Islam and was downed. In the course of their reconnaissance missions, Islamic Republic of Iran's vessels identified three foreign merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Since there was nothing suspicious to indicate that these ships were carrying goods destined for Iraq, they were allowed to proceed.

This report says that on the northwestern fronts, the combatants of Islam set fire to parts of defensive positions, fortifications, and one ammunition depot and destroyed six tanks, a number of supply trucks and two heavy engineering vehicles belonging to the Iraqi forces. Some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

During the exchanges of fire on Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts, the heavy artillery fire of the combatants of Islam destroyed several infantry, tank, and artillery positions, six heavy and light engineering and supply vehicles were set on fire and destroyed. In Sumar, Kani-Sheykh, and Soleyman Koshteh operational areas, movements and activities of a number of enemy patrol groups came under timely fire by combatants of Islam and enemy patrols, having suffered some casualties, fled the area.

Since 0300 hours this morning, a series of close combat and offensive operations began between our forces and the aggressive Ba'thist Iraqi forces in the general Mehran area. The battle is still going on.

In the Nahr-Anbar area of the southern fronts, continuous fire of the combatants of Islam on the infantry and engineering units of the Ba'thist enemy which were in the process of completing or repairing their defensive positions, at least 35 of them were either killed or wounded and their operations were halted. Also, in the same area, one of the Iraqi units came under heavy artillery fire by our forces and as a result, five of their tanks were either destroyed or put out of action. Yesterday, the city of Abadan was hit by enemy long-range artillery fire and 25 houses and shops sustained some damage.

'Heavy Battle' in Mehran

LD181218 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Muslim combatants have pushed back Iraqi troops five kms in the Mehran region, western Iran, and heavy battle is continuing in the area, the spokesman for the War Information headquarters said here Sunday. The "Ba'th enemy once again proved its aggressive nature when it attacked our soil Saturday and advanced along the road to Mehran" some 75 kms southwest of Ilam in Western Iran, he said. "Battle is continuing in the area and with no doubt the Muslim combatants who have beaten back the enemy throughout the war, will teach them another lesson" there, he said.

Mehran region, on the Iran-Iraq border, and between several mountain ranges has been captured twice by the Ba'th Army during the five-year-old war, he said. Iraqi troops had positions on heights adjacent to the Mehran region and could shell roads in the area, he said.

Iraqi advance in the area, made through a huge mobilization of forces is more a propaganda effort rather than a victory with military value, he said. Iraq has lost the Al-Faw Peninsula and is in desperate need to improve the morale of its forces and the military effort in Mehran can be only explained within this context, he added.